

The Interim Joint Committee on Education held its fifth meeting of the 2010 Interim on Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, in Greensburg at the KY Tech–Green County Area Technology Center (ATC) and Green County High School. The focus of the site visit was to discuss the role of career and technical education in secondary education programs, which enhance students' college and career readiness skills through technical education and skills training and dual credit options. The committee also learned more about the delivery of program services by local and KY Tech school districts.



**KY Tech–Green County ATC hosts members of
Interim Joint Committee On Education**

KY Tech–Green Co. ATC principal Rick Atwell, his faculty, staff and students welcomed legislators and guests to their school and offered a well–rounded, fully packed morning agenda of session activities. Atwell relayed historical information, discussed the ATC’s vision and mission, provided an overview of programs, student enrollment and program assessment, and offered an opportunity for legislators to ask questions. Student organization officers representing Kentucky Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), SkillsUSA Kentucky, and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) conducted program tours. Classroom teachers explained skills–based programming and students showcased their skills through demonstrations in each program area. To underscore the value of career and technical education, legislators heard personal testimonials from students regarding their experiences and how taking classes at the ATC had made a difference in their education.



Atwell:

“On behalf of my faculty and staff, we want to thank members of the committee for their visit to our school. We all have a renewed admiration for what our legislators do, and I’m personally impressed with their dedication.

“The Green County ATC serves three local school districts including Green Co., Taylor Co., and Campbellsville Ind. Our enrollment is 375 students, but we serve 691 duplicated students.

“My staff does an outstanding job and our Perkins performance documents how well we reach students. Measure 3S1 – Secondary School Completion Report has a state performance goal of 91.28 percent. All programs exceed the state performance goal and six out of seven programs are at 100 percent.

“Perkins Performance Measure 4S1 – Graduation Rates Report shows the state performance goal is 85.94 percent. All Green County ATC programs exceed the state goal and six out of seven programs have a 100 percent graduation rate. In my opinion, this helps validate the major influence that KY Tech has on high school graduation rates.”

Meet the KY Tech–Green Co. ATC faculty and staff



Photo above, back row (l to r): David Rauch, electrical technology; Steven Gabehart, automotive technology; Wesley Clark, wood manufacturing technology; Brandon Bardon, welding; and Barry Porter, machine tool technology. Front row (l to r): Karen Compton, health sciences; Sandra Smith and Amye Toms, office and finance technology.

Photo at right (l to r): Dwight Adcock, maintenance technician and Donna Bishop, administrative secretary.



Bishop:

"We were excited that the legislators had an opportunity to come to Green County Area Technology Center to see firsthand what technical and employability skills these students are learning. We are extremely proud of our school, our teachers and our students."

Adcock:

"Every day, I work very hard to make Green County ATC a clean and safe environment for our students. My experience with the legislators and visitors was positive and we hope they felt the same way."

Classroom and Program Tours



Instructor Karen Compton talks with Senator Kenneth Winters.

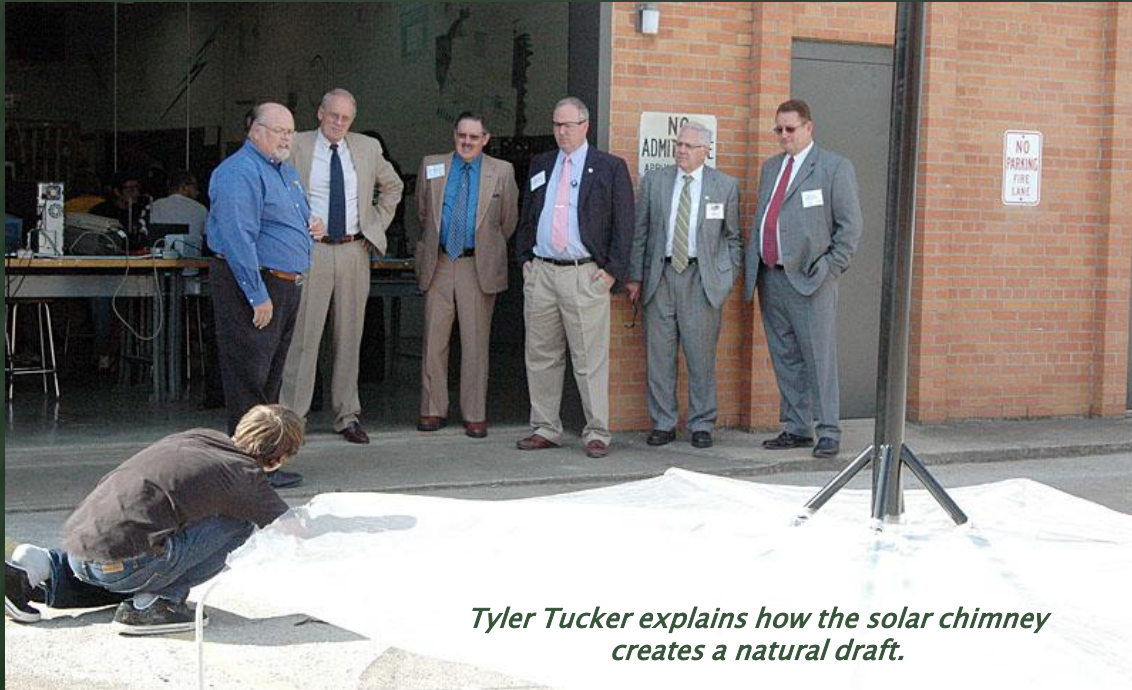
Health Sciences Classroom



Above: Senator Tim Shaughnessy (center) listens to a presentation during the health sciences class program rotation.



Electrical Technology Program Tour



Tyler Tucker explains how the solar chimney creates a natural draft.

Project: Solar Chimney

Students in electrical technology are working on a special project this year to help conserve energy by building a solar chimney from scratch. The project will allow students to better understand how electricity can be generated by creating a natural draft to spin a turbine.

*Dave Rauch,
electrical technology:*

"It was a thrill to have the committee visit and take a tour of our school. As a teacher, there are a lot of days we wish someone could see what we get to experience each school day. Students not only learn skills, in some cases we light the first spark of a career choice. As you walk through our classes, you can feel the energy level rise in our students. For some, there comes the realization of why classes like math, chemistry, physics and science are important. We make those lessons become real life skills to master for success in their adult lives."

"My hope is legislators took back with them a true sense of how vital we are to the students we serve. In my program, some students go into apprenticeship programs. Others choose to become electrical engineers or industrial maintenance professionals. No matter what path they choose, we are a strong force in their lives while preparing them to be able to live their dreams."

Machine Tool Technology Program Tour

*Barry T. Porter,
Machine Tool Technology:*

"During the visit, we got the opportunity to showcase not only our school, but also our students. Our students are the ones that excel with technical education and they were very excited to share their projects and the skills they have learned. I was also excited to get the opportunity to share student experiences with our legislators and talk with them about the importance of career and technical education."

"I felt that it was essential for our leaders to see how we teach and prepare students to further their education or go into the workforce. I hope they left with a better understanding of how important KY Tech is to students."



Above: Daniel Wolfe explains a process to Dr. Annette Parker, KCTCS; and Mr. Jim Frank, Green County assistant superintendent.



At left: Representative Bam Carney asks a question to Barry Porter, instructor.

Wood Manufacturing Technology Program Tour



Senator Jimmy Higdon (R), Senate District 14 talks with Wes Clark.

*Wes Clark,
Wood Manufacturing Technology:*

"I was glad to see all the senators, representatives and guests tour our shops to get a real feeling of what we do in our programs. We are very proud of what we do and will always take the opportunity to show our students' work."

"To have a senator in my shop bragging about student projects was very rewarding to all of us. We teach vocational, academic and employability skills on a daily basis that are necessary for the future success of our students. To have that bragged about from our guests was a great reward for me and our school."



Automotive Technology Program Tour

*Steve Gabehart,
automotive technology:*

"Meeting the legislators and showing off our school and hard work was a great experience. Many people do not know what we do here and this was a great opportunity to showcase the talents and hard work of the faculty, staff and most importantly, the students. Watching our students interact with legislators really made me proud. The students worked so hard. I was impressed by the way they stepped up and represented themselves. One of my biggest complaints is our school is often seen and not heard. We finally got to express our thoughts to people who do matter."

"I wanted each legislator to take away how important we are to many of these students. We have to wear many hats while doing our job including consulting, teaching, and advising. In many cases, we are the only parental figure some of these kids have. We are the last stop for some of these kids and we have to make a difference in their lives now so they will hopefully make the right decisions. What they become after we have had them in our classes for two or three years often determines what they do for the rest of their lives. They need us."



Automotive technology student Blake Belton (center) discusses an engine with Representative C.B. Embry as his instructor watches.

Welding Program Tour



*Brandon Bardin,
Welding:*

"I am grateful that our legislators and the people making decisions concerning career and technical education took the time to see what's going on at the front line – in our classrooms. There are great opportunities for students in our classrooms and we have affected many lives throughout the years."

"I feel that career and technical education in Kentucky is one of the best kept secrets in education and hopefully, as a result of these tours, our secret will now become common knowledge."

Career & Tech Ed in Kentucky

A joint presentation by Deborah Anderson, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) College & Career Readiness branch manager, and John Marks, Office of Career and Technical Education executive director, provided committee members with an in-depth overview of Kentucky's secondary CTE delivery systems.



Above (l to r): Representative Derrick Graham and Representative Jody Richards.



Above (l to r): Deborah Anderson and John Marks.

A major segment focused on historical legislation to provide legislators with an understanding of how the present structure was created.

Photo at right (l to r): Allen D. Rose, Sullivan University, Michelle Eastham, and Mary Stratton, KY Tech area supervisor.

Personal Testimonial:

Special guest speaker Michelle Eastham spoke to legislators regarding her personal story.

Eastham:

"As an advocate of vocational/technical education, I was honored to speak before many of Kentucky's legislators and educators. My vocational/technical background is three fold. I first was a student at the Green County Area Technology Center in 1984-85 and completed the health careers program (now health sciences) along with a couple of accounting classes. That background gained acceptance for me into the University of Louisville Radiologic Technology careers program (now health sciences) along with a couple of accounting classes in July 1985. I had been accepted in the nursing program in Somerset and planned to go there until my clinical rotation caused me to fall in love with radiology. U of L's program was already filled for the 1985 fall class. I applied and asked for an interview at the last minute. The program director told me my experience in the health careers program is how she decided to accept me. I completed that program and then finished a bachelor's degree in vocational/occupational education at U of L. I taught radiography at the Elizabethtown State Vocational/Technical School from 1992-1998.

"My 15-year-old daughter is now in her second year of classes at the area technology center. She is studying both health sciences and business. She is a home schooled student and the technology center allows her to enroll in these classes while completing her studies at home. She is pursuing a career in veterinary sciences."



*Amye Toms
office technology:*

“Preparing for this legislative visit allowed me to reflect on the past 20 years of technical education, reflect on why I became a teacher and how it has benefited me and my family. But above all, I have been able to reflect upon all the students who have walked into and out of my classroom – from their success stories to their gratitude of thanks, our students have benefited from who we are and what we do.

“In my opinion, this visit allowed everyone involved to focus on what we all have in common – the success of our students. When students come to our classrooms with a desire to learn, technical education will meet the needs of our workforce and/or prepare them for a postsecondary education. KY Tech instructors possess the skills and abilities to teach and train tomorrow’s future.”





*Senator Kenneth Winters (R)
Senate District 1
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Committee on Education:*

“On behalf of the Interim Joint Committee on Education, I would like to thank the KY Tech-Green County Area Technology Center faculty and staff for their efforts in making our visit meaningful, including the hospitality shown to us throughout the day. We also want to send out a special thank you to Superintendent Marshall Lowe and all the staff of the Green County Schools.

“Student conducted tours provided members of our legislative committee with a first-hand opportunity to better understand the delivery of career and technical education at an area technology center. The center is well-maintained and many up-to-date pieces of equipment are available for students to receive appropriate instruction. All of our attendees were most impressed with the quality and confidence of the students and the articulate presentations from teachers and staff.”



(l to r): Audrey Carr, committee staff administrator; and Senator Winters.



*Representative Carl Rollins II, (D)
House District 56
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Committee on
Education:*

*“The Interim Joint Committee on
Education enjoyed a very informative
visit to the KY Tech–Green County Area
Technology Center. All of Kentucky’s
career and technical centers provide a
valuable service to Kentucky students
and communities by preparing our
young people to learn the skills they*

*need to enter the workforce after high school graduation or to continue their
education at our community and technical colleges or universities. The
essential skills learned at our career and technical centers provide our
employers with well trained workers needed to move Kentucky forward. Our
investment in Kentucky’s future workforce will provide a valuable return for
many years to come.*

*“While this meeting concentrated on career and technical education, we are
appreciative of the efforts by Superintendent Marshall Lowe and members of
the Green County School District to accommodate committee members.”*

*Senator Vernie McGaha (R)
Senate District 15:*

"I would like to personally congratulate the KY Tech-Green County Area Technology Center faculty and staff for their efforts in providing us with a well orchestrated tour of their facility, programs and equipment. Not only were students impressive in their presentations, but they were able to relay stories about how career and technical education courses have helped direct them toward a skilled career choice. We also want to thank Green County School District Superintendent Marshall Lowe and his staff for hosting our afternoon meeting in the high school library.

"Career and technical education in Kentucky is one of the key secrets that must be brought into the forefront of education. Barriers must be knocked down in order to elevate the value of both Kentucky Tech and locally operated career and technical programs. Kentucky Tech gets it in terms of college and career readiness and what it means for economic development opportunities in our state. I think this is one of the most critical elements we must acknowledge and promote."

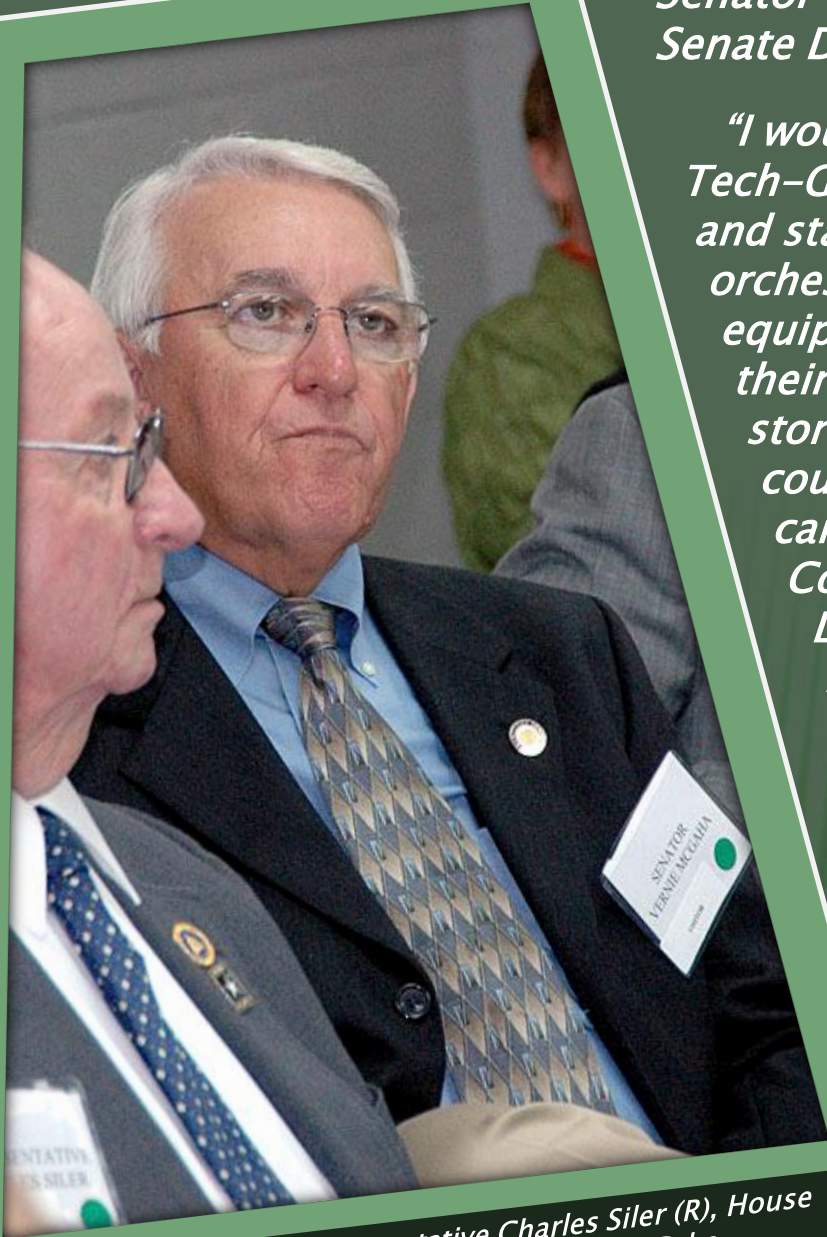


Photo (l to r): Representative Charles Siler (R), House District 82; and Senator Vernie McGaha.

*Senator David Givens (R)
Senate District 9:*

"Green County ATCs hosting our Interim Joint Committee on Education permitted the spotlight to shine on both the Green County School System and the delivery of career and technical education in our rural region. The district administrator, ATC administrator, teachers, and students guided us through tours and presentations that made me proud as a legislator, community citizen, and parent.

"With continued limited financial education resources, increased workforce competition, and more complex skilled-trade technology, career and tech education must continue to efficiently and effectively prepare tomorrow's workforce today. We were witness to this preparation during our tour."



*Photo of Senator David Givens taken by
Tim Thornberry, Education and Workforce
Development Cabinet photographer*



*Senator Jack Westwood (R)
Senate District 23 (Kenton-part):*

"I don't believe many folks realize how important the area technology centers are in our efforts to improve the quality of education in our state. Too many of our bright students still do poorly in traditional classes, and even drop out of school altogether, because they don't see the relevance in what they are learning to what they want to do in their careers.

"The applied learning that goes on in area technology centers is the formula for success that many of these students have hoped for."

A special thanks to the Green Co. ATC Student Organization Ambassadors



Back row (l to r): Regis Pearson, HOSA; Sidney Smith, HOSA; and Jacob Cruse, SkillsUSA. Front row (l to r): Zach Leftwich, FBLA; Danielle Posey, HOSA; Ashley Milby, HOSA; and Alisha Posey, SkillsUSA



KY Tech Good News Story #333 – December 7, 2010

Layout by: Fran Dundon

Office of Career and Technical Education, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet